

House Engrossed

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2004

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2003

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY TO THE STATES BY ALLOWING THE STATES TO RETAIN FEDERAL
FUEL TAX REVENUES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)



1 To the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the motoring public in this state pays a federal fuel tax of
4 18.4 cents per gallon, and Congress has recently considered raising that tax
5 by 5.4 cents per gallon, an increase of nearly one-third, with ongoing
6 increases by indexation thereafter; and

7 Whereas, for nearly half a century the federal fuel tax has supported
8 the Federal Highway Administration, which was formed in 1956 to build the
9 interstate highway system and which successfully completed that mission by
10 the mid-1980s; and

11 Whereas, most of the transportation problems that confront travelers
12 today are local or regional, and state and local governments can respond to
13 them more effectively than distant bureaucracies; and

14 Whereas, a growing share of the federal fuel tax is diverted to
15 purposes other than highways and roads, including urban mass transit, ferry
16 boats, commuter rails, historic renovation, hiking trails, landscaping,
17 covered bridges, scenic byways and Appalachian redevelopment, which benefit
18 narrow yet influential constituencies at the expense of the motoring public;
19 and

20 Whereas, the federal government often threatens to withhold a state's
21 share of federal highway money in order to force the state to comply with a
22 variety of federal mandates, including clean air and safety standards, law
23 enforcement and union contracts; and

24 Whereas, the federal management of highway funding results in a subsidy
25 to wealthier states and slower growing states at the expense of less affluent
26 states and fast growing states with greater transportation needs; and

27 Whereas, "turnback" legislation that would give each state full control
28 of the federal fuel tax revenues collected by that state has been proposed
29 in several past sessions of Congress and has again been introduced as
30 H.R. 3113, the Transportation Empowerment Act.

31 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
32 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

33 1. That the Congress of the United States enact legislation that would
34 return to the states full responsibility to formulate and implement their own
35 surface transportation priorities by allowing each state to retain the
36 revenues from the federal tax on fuel that is sold within its borders.

37 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
38 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
39 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
40 Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives of each state's legislature and each Member of Congress from
42 the State of Arizona.

~~PASSED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 10, 2004~~

~~PASSED BY THE SENATE APRIL 12, 2004.~~

- 1 -
FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 13, 2004.

Passed the House March 10, 2004

by the following vote: 42 Ayes

18 Nays, 0 Not Voting

Jake Flake
Speaker of the House

Gorman L. Moore
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate April 12, 2004

by the following vote: 26 Ayes

2 Nays, 2 Not Voting

Klu Blument
President of the Senate

Charmian Blount
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Memorial was received by the Secretary of State

H.C.M. 2003

this 13 day of April, 2004

at 12:59 o'clock P M.

Janice K. Brewer
Secretary of State